

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00134 300915Z

13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 300753Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 825

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T MUSCAT 134

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MASS, MU, UK, US

SUBJECT: TOW MISSILES

REF: LONDON 1310

1. BRIG. SEMPLE OF OMANI DEFENSE MINISTRY, WHEN DELIVERING LETTER ABOUT FOLLOW-ON TOW SUPPORT (SEPTTEL TO DEPT ONLY) TOLD ME IT HAD BEEN SULTAN'S PERSONAL ORDER TO HAVE BRITS AND OTHER EXPATRIATES EXCLUDED FROM TOW TRAINING. WHILE CAREFUL NOT TO CRITICIZE THIS ORDER DIRECTLY, SEMPLE COMMENTED THIS REALLY DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE ESPECIALLY SINCE WHEN USED OPERATIONALLY IN DHOFAR TOW WILL BE UNDER COMMAND AND OPERATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM SECONDED OR CONTRACTED BRITISH OFFICERS. HE ADDED THAT WITH SULTAN BACK ON OMAN, THIS BUSINESS MAY GET SORTED OUT QUICKLY, PERHAPS STARTING WITH OMANI DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING JAN. 30 WHOSE AGENDA INCLUDES TOW DISCUSSION.

2. WE WILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH SEMPLE, COL. HEAD AND OTHERS HERE (AS WELL AS OUR OWN TRAINING TEAM) IN EFFORT TO ASSURE PROPER CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE TRAINING. THERE CERTAINLY IS NO INDICATION HERE FROM OUR CONTACTS WITH THESE BRIT EXPATRIATES AND WITH BRITISH AMBASSADOR AND DCM BUT WHAT BRITS IN OMANI DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT ARE PROPERLY DISPOSED TO INCORPORATE TOW EFFECTIVELY INTO SAF ARSENAL.

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Message Attributes

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